

News Highlights, June 8-14

Asheville Citizen-Times

Study: Arts groups have billion-dollar economic impact

Arts organizations create thousands of jobs and millions in revenue for North Carolina, according to a new study. The study shows that nonprofit organizations and other community groups generate \$1.2 billion in economic activity in the state, supporting more than 43,600 full-time equivalent jobs and \$119 million in revenue for local governments. Read more here. Read an article from the Winston-Salem Journal here. Listen to a news item on WUNC-FM here.

Nonesuch Journal

AfroCubism Kicks Off Four-City North American Tour

In 1996, a group of Mali's best-known musicians were due to fly to Havana for a collaboration with Cuban singers and instrumentalists. However, the Malians never arrived due to travel complications, and a very different album was recorded instead: the Grammy Award—winning, multi-million-selling Buena Vista Social Club. The musicians of AfroCubism are now making their way to the United States for their first North American tour since last summer... (including) a show at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh. Read more here.

Stanley News and Press

State Library Announces \$1.4 Million for Books, Outreach, Technology

N.C. Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Linda A. Carlisle announced today that the State Library Division of the Department of Cultural Resources is awarding \$1.4 million in federally funded grants for 71 local and statewide library projects for community outreach, library book collections, technology improvements and digitization of materials. Read more here.

South Charlotte Weekly

Old-time string music "played up" at Polk State Historic Site

Musician Marilyn Meacham Price says, "Music is like anything, it evolves." This was especially true of North Carolina music in the 1840s, when early songs of Appalachia were born of a country in transition. Read more here.

News & Observer

Seats of Honor Photo Gallery

N&O photographer Takaaki Iwabu was at the unveiling of commemorative benches at the State Capitol to honor those who served there. See the photos here.

Alamance Times-News

New state historical marker in Alamance places home of Revolutionary War general

There's a new historic sign in the county that marks the location of a plantation belonging to John Butler, a Revolutionary War militia brigadier general. The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources approved the new state historical marker. Read more here.

Greensboro News & Record

Editorial: Statue's lost cause

The Reidsville Confederate statue dispute has divided Sons and Daughters, and the Sons are fighting the Lost Cause. A sleepy driver launched this uncivil war in May 2011 by running into the monument in the middle of a roundabout in downtown Reidsville. The impact toppled the life-size statue of a Confederate soldier that had stood atop the monument for 101 years, shattering it beyond repair. Read more here.

The Daily Advance

Ed Merrell: America's Civil War — 150 years later

As the 150th Anniversary commemoration of the Civil War gains momentum, audiences worldwide are watching. The War Between the States had impacts far beyond our shores in places like Great Britain, France, southern Asia, Alaska and more. Now as Americans plan events and exhibits, write and release yet more books and articles and try to fathom why we ever engaged in war that eventually took over 622,000 lives, people everywhere are observing our approach to this Sesquicentennial. Read more here.

WBTV

Rail Days rolls on at NC Transportation Museum

The 2012 Great Southeastern Rail Days Festival has great fun for families, rail fans, and anyone with an interest in the golden age of railroading! Featuring three passenger trains, including the steam powered caboose train, the 30th anniversary celebration of the Southern Railway and Norfolk & Western merger, music, magic, railroad artisit Andy Fletcher and much more, this event promises to be bigger and better than ever before! Read more here.

New Bern Sun Journal

Budget cuts reduce Tryon Palace's workforce

Tryon Palace Complex will cut 11 positions and lay off six people June 30 as a result of anticipated reductions in state funding for fiscal 2012-13, and another 21 positions could be cut. Three of the positions involved were vacant and the money for three of the positions will now be funded by admission receipts and earned income, said Director Kay Williams. Read more here">here.

American Dance Festival Blog

Mary Regan Season Dedication

ADF is honored this year to dedicate our season to Mary Regan, a lifelong advocate of the arts and a dedicated ADF supporter. In her capacity as Director of the N.C. Arts Council for the last thirty-five years, she touched and impacted creative communities in countless ways across the state and has been an ardent voice for ADF. See a video here.